

MYCHAL JUDGE POLICE AND FIRE  
CHAPLAINS PUBLIC SAFETY OFF-  
FICERS' BENEFIT ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the Mychal Judge Police & Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act.

This legislation would ensure that those brave public safety officers who leave behind no spouses, children or parents will still be eligible for the Public Safety Officers' Benefit. This legislation would effect several of the victims of the tragedy of September 11 including Father Mychal Judge.

Appointed in 1992 as the Catholic Chaplain of the New York City Fire Department at the strong urging of the uniformed members of the Fire Department, Father Judge dedicated himself to helping others and counseling to the members and families of members of the New York City Fire Department—a Department that has seen a tragically high number of casualties this year, previous to the events of 9–11.

Taking on this role was characteristic of Father Judges lifetime of service that began when he entered the seminary at age 14. During his 41 years as a priest, Father Judge tirelessly served the sick, homeless, poor, and disabled. He diligently cared for people living with AIDS, worked for peace in Northern Ireland, and tended to the families of the victims of TWA Flight 800, which exploded over Long Island in July of 1996 as well as provided for New York Firefighter families during both times of joy and sorrow.

On September 11, Father Judge died as he lived—serving others. He was among the first units responding at the World Trade Center and, while advised to move to a safer location, he like so many of his comrades in the Fire Department, refused to leave his compatriots. When the firefighters entered the building, Father Judge was at their side, where he remained offering comfort and absolution until the end. We all remember the haunting picture of Father Judge being carried out of the wreckage of the World Trade Center.

In addition to the New York Fire department, many of us here in Congress recognize and acknowledge his good works and have been working with the White House for the posthumous awarding of the presidential Medal of Freedom to Father Judge.

That is why I am so pleased that such a compassionate and vital piece of legislation is named after such a compassionate and vital human being.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation that serves as a small token of appreciation to those who perish in the line of duty from a grateful nation.

TRIBUTE TO BANDA ESCOLAR DE  
GUAYANILLA

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2002*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the

Banda Escolar De Guayanilla, a specular band of young people from Guayanilla, Puerto Rico who will play in the 44th annual National Puerto Rican Parade. The legendary parade, to be held on June 9th in New York City, is the largest celebration of Puerto Rican culture in the United States.

This year, I have the distinct honor of being the parade's Grand Marshall. I can not express how much I appreciate this honor. I am especially proud to be Grand Marshall of the parade this year, because it will be the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla's fifth year participating. This exceptional band marched in the parade in 1987, 1988, 1990, and 1992.

Mr. Speaker, the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla is made up of about 200 students from Guayanilla who spend nearly all of their spare time in rigorous practice, doing drills to improve their performance. These young people are exceptionally talented and have been recognized throughout the country for their precise marching, discipline, and excellent presentation. Not only must these young people hone such difficult skills and travel all over the country to march, they must maintain their schoolwork as well. As a result, they develop unmatched time-management skills and self-discipline at a young age. Only the best march in this band and that is why they have been singled out so many times.

In 1998, the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla became the first Latin American band to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, perhaps the most famous parade in the world. They also participated in the well-known Tournament of Roses Parade in 2001. Along with these major accomplishments, the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla has marched in the Walt Disney World Parade in Orlando, the Thanksgiving Parade in Philadelphia, and dozens of parades throughout Latin America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla, a marching band of dedicated youth who will grace this year's Puerto Rican Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON ON  
BEING HONORED BY THE SAN  
MATEO CENTRAL LABOR COUN-  
CIL

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2002*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Johnson, a respected citizen of San Mateo County, California, who is being honored by the San Mateo Central Labor Council at its 23rd Annual COPE Benefit Dinner on July 18, 2002.

Walter Johnson has been a visionary leader within the labor movement for more than 40 years. His efforts began more than a half century ago when he joined the Department Store Employees Union Local 1100 after securing a job at Sears Roebuck as an appliance salesperson. By 1957, Walter had become the business agent of the union and was elected president the following year. In 1964, Walter Johnson was elected to the union's top position of secretary-treasurer and was subsequently reelected to the position 11 times. It should come as no surprise that Walter was

elected as the top labor leader in San Francisco in 1984 and has remained so since then. As secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council since 1985, he currently represents 75,000 workers and 125 different unions.

Since his early years as a member of the Department Store Employees Union, Walter Johnson has dedicated his time and talents to improving the lives of his fellow workers. In 1958, Walter Johnson played an integral role in helping the first African-American woman to secure a position behind the counter at Woolworth's.

Today, Walter Johnson continues to ensure that workers have the quality of life they deserve with secure jobs, equitable wages and quality benefits. Walter regularly works with community groups, elected officials and religious leaders to advocate for workers' rights both locally and globally, including in such countries as China and South Korea. Walter Johnson also serves as a member of the Economic Forum Board of Directors where he works to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Bay Area.

Walter Johnson's commitment to his fellow human beings goes far beyond his work within the labor movement. A heroic and courageous cancer survivor, Walter Johnson has added his personal testimony to the fight against breast cancer, helping to lead rallies on behalf of the Breast Cancer Fund. Walter also serves on the boards of various local organizations including the United Way of the Bay area, the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee and Our Redeemers Lutheran Church.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Johnson is an outstanding individual and a respected labor and community leader. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished man for all he has done and continues to do. We are a better county, a better people because of him.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA JOHNSON

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Johnson for her 40 years as an educator and leader at Washington School. Her retirement will be celebrated on June 14, 2002, at Washington School, the very place where generation after generation of students benefited from her guidance.

Barbara Johnson dedicated herself to a life of teaching, greatly influencing the lives of Union City residents. She started her career as a fourth grade teacher at Washington School in 1962. In 1971, she became a helping teacher/curriculum resource teacher, was eventually promoted to assistant principal in 1992, and will retire as Washington School's esteemed principal.

Barbara Johnson has left a lasting legacy at Washington School, having introduced the following outstanding programs: violin program, marching band, multicultural extravaganza, parent dinners, field day picnics, and peer mediation.

Over the past four decades, Barbara Johnson has devoted her life to the students of Washington School. She advocated on their behalf, served as an educational leader, developed the curriculum, and maintained an